



Maldon and District

# Newsletter



*AGM Monday 16th October*

**October 2023**

[www.maldonu3a.co.uk](http://www.maldonu3a.co.uk)

Registered Charity 1086182

# AGENDA

The twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of Maldon & District u3a on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 1:45 pm at Wickham Bishops Village Hall; for the purpose of transacting the following business:

1. To receive apologies for being unable to attend
2. To approve the minutes of the twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting
3. To receive and approve the Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023
4. To receive the Chairman's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023
5. To receive and approve the examined accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
6. To appoint an Examiner for the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
7. To confirm the subscriptions to be paid by members from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025
8. To elect Officers and Committee Members
9. To consider any other business previously notified

Carol Bates Business Secretary

NOTES – Eligibility for Office and to vote: All fully paid up members for the year 2023/2024 are eligible to stand for Committee and to vote; except under the terms of our Constitution, where only one member from any one household shall serve on the Committee at one time.

## **MALDON & DISTRICT U3A**

Minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Annual General Meeting

held at Wickham Bishops Village Hall

on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The Chairman welcomed new and existing members to the AGM. All the AGM documents had been circulated in advance of the meeting to all members, and 70 votes had been returned.

**Present:** Shirley Macro, Chairman; Malcolm Case, Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary; Geoff Cory, Treasurer; Judith Johnston, Acting Secretary; Veronica Smith, Theresa Byles, Alec Fraser, Ken Hazell, Andy Simmonds and 78 members.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Carol Bates, Tony Groves, Liz Samson and 18 members.

**2. Minutes of the Twenty-Third Annual General Meeting**

The draft Minutes had been circulated to all members and were agreed by 70 members, and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Annual Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Annual Report had been circulated to all members and was accepted unanimously.

**4. Chairman's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

The Chairman's Report had been circulated to all members and was accepted unanimously.

**5. Examined Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

The Treasurer's Report, in addition to the Receipts and Payments Account, the Balance Sheet and the Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 had been circulated to all members and were approved unanimously.

**6. Appointment of an Examiner for the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

Caroline Gansbuehler FCA has indicated her willingness to continue as auditor, on a zero fee basis, and this appointment was agreed unanimously. She was thanked for her continued support.

**7. Confirmation of Subscriptions to be paid by members from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024**

The Treasurer recommended that subscriptions remain unchanged at £20 per member. This was agreed unanimously.

#### **8. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Officers and Committee Members were proposed, seconded, and elected unanimously:

Chairman	Ken Hazell	Proposer	Geoff Macro
Seconder	Tony Bates		
Vice Chair	Theresa Byles	Proposer	Dorothy Denmark
Seconder	Pat Clements		
Membership			
Secretary	Malcolm Case	Proposer	Joyce Cotterell
Seconder	Geoffrey Cotterell		
Committee	Alec Fraser	Proposer	Margaret Fraser
Seconder	Rosemary Back		
Committee	Andy Simmonds	Proposer	Gill Cory
Seconder	Patrick Forsyth		

#### **9. Approval of Changes to the Constitution**

The change to Paragraph 16, sub-section iv, to read "There shall be a quorum when at least 15% of the number of members of the u3a are present at any general meeting" was proposed by Patrick Forsyth and seconded by Mike Childs, and agreed unanimously.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

No other business had been notified.

In closing, the Chairman thanked members of the Committee and the co-ordinators for their support during her final year, and welcomed Ken Hazell as the incoming Chairman.

The meeting closed at 1.52

## MALDON AND DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

also known as Maldon U3A. Registered Charity No. 1086182

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Chairman: Ken Hazell

Treasurer: Geoff Cory

Secretary: Carol Bates

Constitution: Adopted 19th October 1998 Amended 19th March 2001, 17th June 2002, 9th June 2003, 21st January 2008, 15th June 2015, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018. 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The objects of the U3A are: (1) To advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in Maldon and its surrounding locality. (2) To provide facilities for leisure time and recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare.

Bankers: Barclays Bank, Maldon; COIF Charities' Deposit Fund, London and the Nat West, Maldon. Examiner of Accounts Caroline Gansbuehler, BSc, FCA, ILFM, CertICM

Trustees at the time of signing the Report: The Management Committee: Ken Hazell (Chairman), Theresa Byles (Vice Chair and Speaker Secretary), Geoff Cory (Treasurer), Carol Bates (Business Secretary), Kris Taylor (Newsletter Editor), Malcolm Case (Membership Secretary, Groups Coordinator), Alec Fraser, Andy Simmonds, Tony Groves (Web Master)

Other Trustees Appointment of additional Trustees: Two persons can be co-opted to the Executive Committee. For the period of this report Kris Taylor was co-opted.

Income Reserves Policy:

£2000 set aside for replacement of AV equipment

£2000 set aside for replacement of laptop computers

£500 set aside for insurance excess

After setting aside the above from our cash balances, our remaining 'unrestricted' cash balances are required to be equivalent, at any one time, to a 6 month spend minimum with a 12 month spend average of our monthly spending and, over a year, to average no less than 9 months of our monthly spending.

A summary of the main activities and achievements of the Charity during the year in relation to the Charity's objects can be found in the Chairman's Report.

## **Chairman's Report 2023**

I think it would be fair to say that this past year has been a steady year punctuated by some spectacular successes and some sadness.

### **Membership**

The maintenance or growth of our membership is a reasonable measure of success. The pattern over the last couple of years has continued. When the time to renew membership comes around, we lose about 15% of our members and then we recruit new members steadily up to around 400 again. The reasons members do not renew are, no doubt, varied but rarely are we made aware that it is because of dissatisfaction with the opportunities our u3a brings.

### **Groups**

We have continued to offer membership of nearly forty eclectic groups. Through our cluster arrangement with other local u3as, other interests can also be satisfied. Some groups offer physical exercise, others mental exercise or creativity. And then there are social gatherings often with a learning element. This year we introduced Padel Tennis and our Ten Pin Bowling group celebrated their 1000th game. The Maritime group and Local History group are particular to Maldon and continue to thrive. The Aviation group has taken off again (sorry) and our portfolio of groups fairly represents that we have been running for over 25 years.

### **Special Events**

Our Christmas celebration proved a great success and was provided by our own home grown talent and then in April we celebrated our 25th anniversary, a splendid occasion with excellent music and refreshments and of course a cake. In June we held our Open Day with favourable comments from all who came resulting in a modest increase in our membership.

## **Our Committee**

As soon as I became Chairman, I realised that our u3a has an excellent Committee with a wide range of expertise and indeed experience. I found my role was, more or less, limited to the safety announcements at the monthly meetings and allowing the discussion to flow at our Committee meetings. I try to seek a consensus as in my business career I have found that proceeding with just a majority vote in favour of something rarely proves satisfactory.

In December, very sadly, Veronica Smith, our Speaker Secretary, died quite suddenly which was both a shock and a great loss to us. However, we are of an age group where sadly there will be losses every year and this last year a number of long-serving and distinguished members of our u3a sadly passed away. We should expect our members to provide support and solace for those bereaved and I feel confident that we do.

Theresa Byles very kindly agreed to take on the task of Speaker Secretary and we continue to enjoy the excellent presentations at our monthly meetings. The subject matter is remarkably varied and memorable.

In May, Liz Samson retired from our Committee as Newsletter Editor after the production of many excellent Newsletters that must have required great commitment and an investment of much time. I will thank her in this report for all that she did in maintaining such a high standard. We were fortunate that Kris Taylor volunteered to take on the role and she has continued to maintain this standard. I believe our Newsletter would enjoy favourable comparison with any other.

Our Secretary, Carol Bates, and Treasurer, Geoff Cory, come to the end of their specified time in office at our AGM and I must thank for them for their most valued contribution over a difficult period disturbed particularly by Covid.

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## **MALDON AND DISTRICT U3A – AGM, 16th October 2023**

### **TREASURERS REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022-23** **(YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2023)**

The Maldon & District u3a annual accounts have been inspected by our appointed examiner Caroline Gansbuehler, and her report states that “Accounts and the records on which they are based comply with the requirements of the 2011 Charities Act and that there are no issues in the Accounts that require either further investigation or explanation.”.

**Income** for the General account in 2022-23 was £8,890 a 12% decrease from the previous year, due to reduced membership numbers.

**Payments** from the general account totalled £8,735 a 27% increase from the previous year. This 27% increase in payments from the previous year can be attributed to a combination of increased events and activities, increased costs and deferred payments from the 2021-22 financial year.

#### **Balance sheet**

The General account finished the 2022-23 year with a total reserve of £19,879

This total reserve figure is made up of £4,500 in “restricted funds” for future anticipated replacement of A.V equipment, Computers and Insurance excesses, and £15,379 available as “unrestricted” funds for operational use covering Thirds age trust charges, Monthly meeting and local newsletter costs and administration.

#### **Financial Reserves**

The Maldon u3a employs a reserves policy to ensure financial security, with an unrestricted reserve target ratio of 6 – 18 months expenditure. At present our reserves are above the target level and would be well used to contain the effects of increasing prices.

#### **Membership fees for 2024-25**

Due to the level of financial reserves as stated above. I propose keeping the annual membership fee unchanged at £20.00 for the 7th year and utilise our reserves when and as required.

A copy of the submitted Annual accounts for 2022-23 together with a signed report from the Independent Examiner (Caroline Gansbuehler FCA) are attached.

#### **Appointment of Independent Accounts Examiner for 2023-24**

Caroline Gansbuehler, BSc, FCA, ILFM, CertICM has again indicated her willingness to stand as our Independent Accounts Examiner for 2023-24, on an honorary, zero-fee basis. Caroline has a wealth of experience in accounting and finance roles both within professional accounting practices and in industry. She has also has experience of auditing charity accounts prepared in accordance with the official SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice).

I recommend that the membership appoints Caroline Gansbuehler as our Independent Accounts Examiner for 2023-24 financial year accounts.

Prepared by Geoff Cory  
Treasurer Maldon u3a

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

### **Independent examiner's report to the Executive Committee of Maldon & District U3A**

I report on the accounts of the Maldon & District U3A for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on the following two pages.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
  - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met and
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Caroline Gansbuehler FCA  
10 De Vere Close  
Hatfield Peverel  
Chelmsford  
Essex  
CM3 2LS

11 July 2023

**MALDON & DISTRICT U3A****BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st March 2023**

ASSETS	31/03/2023	31/03/2022
<u>BANK BALANCES</u>	£	£
General Account (Barclays)	8045.67	8097.06
Groups Account (Nat West)	6654.27	5447.43
Deposit Account (CCLA)	11833.60	11627.46
	<u>26533.54</u>	<u>25171.95</u>
<u>CASH BALANCES</u>		
Core Groups Balance	137.54	122.89
Social Activities	133.64	180.50
	<u>271.18</u>	<u>303.39</u>
	<u>26804.72</u>	<u>25475.34</u>
<u>LIABILITIES (Bank &amp; Cash)</u>		
Core Groups Balances	1901.05	2672.81
Social Activities Balances	5024.40	3078.01
	<u>6,925.45</u>	<u>5750.82</u>
<u>NET ASSETS/GENERAL RESERVES</u>	<u>19879.27</u>	<u>19724.52</u>
Represented by General Reserve	<u>19879.27</u>	<u>19724.52</u>
Allocated (Restricted) Reserve Funds	4500.00	4500.00
Unrestricted Funds	15379.27	15224.52

**Notes**

The allocated (restricted) reserve figure of £4500 approved at the 2022 AGM represents the total provision from General Reserves for the replacement costs of the 4 official use laptops computers (£2000), Audio Visual equipment (2000) and potential liabilities from Group insurance excess costs (£500).

Prepared by Geoff Cony  
Treasurer Maldon u3a

Dated May 1st 2023

## MALDON & DISTRICT u3a

### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2023

#### CORE

##### General and Deposit account

	<u>2022 - 2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
<u>RECEIPTS /INCOME</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Members Subscriptions & Day Fees	£7,483.25	£8,085.50
Gift Aid (HMRC)	£1,200.77	£1,250.27
Interest Received (From CCLA account)	£206.14	£4.95
Other Income		£12.80
Open Day (Cluster group Printing )		£142.20
Group Closures (Transfer from Group a/c)		£473.56
	<u>£8,890.16</u>	<u>£9,969.28</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
AGM	£0.00	£42.43
Audio Visual Equrt	£74.63	£409.73
Third Age Trust Capitation	£1,560.00	£1,375.50
Third Age Trust T.A.M Mailing	£961.45	£902.72
Community 360	£0.00	£60.00
Computers / Licences	£79.99	£139.99
Meetings (Christmas, New members)	£1,502.09	£441.60
Hall Hire (BHSA + WMCC)	£1,266.25	£501.75
Local U3A Newsletter	£1,381.00	£909.00
Website Maintenance	£71.50	£68.44
Activity Groups Grants	£534.00	£25.00
Printing, Postage and Stationery	£533.84	£414.50
Speakers	£492.00	£785.00
Other Payments	£278.66	£281.81
	<u>£8,735.41</u>	<u>£6,357.47</u>
SURPLUS /(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>£154.75</u>	<u>£3,611.81</u>
Balance brought forward	<u>£19,724.52</u>	<u>£16,112.71</u>
Balance carried forward	<u><u>£19,879.27</u></u>	<u><u>£19,724.52</u></u>

#### CORE GROUP ACTIVITIES

RECEIPTS	£2,792.30	£3,863.35
PAYMENTS	-£3,564.06	£3,847.07
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	<u>-£771.76</u>	<u>£16.28</u>
Balance brought forward	<u>£2,672.81</u>	<u>£2,656.53</u>
Balance carried forward	<u><u>£1,901.05</u></u>	<u><u>£2,672.81</u></u>

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

RECEIPTS	£17,221.38	£2,464.35
PAYMENTS	-£15,274.99	£2,306.42
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	<u>£1,946.39</u>	<u>£157.93</u>
Balance brought forward	<u>£3,078.01</u>	<u>£2,920.08</u>
Balance carried forward	<u><u>£5,024.40</u></u>	<u><u>£3,078.01</u></u>
<b>GROUP ACCOUNTS TOTAL Balance Carried FWD</b>	<u><u><u>£6,925.45</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>£5,750.82</u></u></u>

Prepared By Geoff Cory  
Treasurer Maldon u3a

Dated 1st May 2023

**Maldon U3A CORE & SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUPS ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

(This analysis includes only Groups which are financially active)

Core Activity Groups	Opening Balances		Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances	
	Bank	Cash			Bank	Cash
Art	75.82	0.00	45.30	-50.30	58.82	12.00
Astronomy	148.89	0.00	0.00	-30.00	118.89	0.00
Aviation	0.00	0.00	512.00	-207.00	274.00	31.00
Botany	1.80	0.00	0.00	-1.80	0.00	0.00
Gardens	1.25	0.00	731.00	-663.00	69.25	0.00
Geology	39.00	0.00	104.00	-71.60	71.40	0.00
Handicraft	0.00	8.25	39.00	-36.20	0.00	11.05
Local History	819.10	72.94	514.00	-596.65	739.35	70.04
Maritime	1441.56	0.00	680.00	-1726.56	395.00	0.00
Trees	5.00	0.00	0.00	-5.00	0.00	0.00
Tudors/Stuarts	0.00	0.00	167.00	-120.20	36.80	10.00
Wine Group 2	0.00	5.70	0.00	2.25	0.00	3.45
Wine Group 3	0.00	36.00	0.00	-36.00	0.00	0.00
Wine Group 4	17.50	0.00	0.00	-17.50	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,549.92</b>	<b>£122.89</b>	<b>£2,792.30</b>	<b>-£3,564.06</b>	<b>£1,763.51</b>	<b>£137.54</b>

Social Activity Groups	Opening Balances		Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances	
	Bank	Cash			Bank	Cash
Bridge	400.67	24.00	340.00	-555.62	187.35	21.70
Canasta	263.46	11.75	400.75	-381.20	283.01	11.75
Just Jazz	67.00	23.00	2.00	0.00	67.00	25.00
Mah Jong	34.00	15.25	390.00	-354.23	71.00	14.02
Meet & Eat	0.05	0.00	0.00	-0.05	0.00	0.00
Outings	39.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.00	0.00
Rummikub 2	33.27	8.00	129.00	-99.00	63.27	8.00
Sing for Pleasure	231.81	15.00	320.00	-497.00	54.81	15.00
Theatre	292.65	0.00	9117.55	-8303.00	1107.20	0.00
Social	535.60	83.50	3122.08	-1983.89	1719.12	38.17
Social (Maritime Trips)	0.00	0.00	3400.00	-3101.00	299.00	0.00
Social Working Capital	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2897.51</b>	<b>180.50</b>	<b>17221.38</b>	<b>-15274.99</b>	<b>4890.76</b>	<b>133.64</b>

Totals Core & Social	Opening Balances		Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances	
	Bank	Cash			Bank	Cash
Core Groups	£2,549.92	£122.89	2792.30	-3564.06	1763.51	137.54
Social Groups	2897.51	180.50	£17,221.38	-£15,274.99	£4,890.76	133.64
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£5,447.43</b>	<b>£303.39</b>	<b>£20,013.68</b>	<b>-£18,839.05</b>	<b>£6,654.27</b>	<b>£271.18</b>

**Nominations for Maldon & District u3a Committee  
2023/24**

Carol Bates

Malcolm Case

Kris Taylor

Alec Fraser

Tony Groves

Andrew Simmonds

Both Ken Hazell and Theresa Byles are mid term  
and do not require nominations

Some of the many exhibits on display at the Combined Military Services Museum, our topic for October's meeting



## FROM THE CHAIR



As our AGM is approaching, it is probably best to start with explaining how the responsibilities of the Committee members have been re-assigned. We had the choice between keeping to the niceties of our constitution or the continuation of our u3a. A Charity Commission requirement is that all our Trustees are equally responsible for financial matters although, no doubt in practice, it is necessary to have a Treasurer. Although we will be ignoring some elements of our constitution, we do think that we will be meeting the Charity Commission requirements.

It has been decided that Theresa will take on the responsibility of Secretary. She will not continue as Vice Chairman but will continue as Speaker Secretary. She will get some assistance with this latter role. Clearly this is too much to expect for more than a short period and the need to recruit to the Committee remains urgent.

By default, and as other Committee members already have significant roles, I will take on the task of Acting Treasurer. My aim will be to simplify this task so that it is not onerous or time-consuming and we hope to recruit a new Treasurer as soon as possible.

While this might fill all the roles for the time being, you may be surprised that we are also seeking to recruit someone to be responsible for the co-ordination of our publicity. This would not necessarily mean membership of the Committee and the overall aim would be to increase our membership. It requires a flair for the topic but would, I am sure, be very rewarding and of course Committee members would

provide assistance and indeed a modest budget.

Turning now to our monthly meetings. At our last meeting, Cherith Lowry spoke about Sir Frederick Gibberd, the Master Planner of Harlow New Town and the garden he created, which is acknowledged to be one of the finest 20th century gardens in the country. It is a garden designed with vistas of lawns, pools, streams and glades, and an arboretum. It also has a moated castle with a drawbridge and sculptures. The existence of this remarkable garden is not that widely known and our Garden Group are planning a visit next year.

At our next meeting, we start with the AGM, which I am told usually take just a few minutes. However, this is one of the few occasions when members can ask us what we have been doing and are planning to do and an ideal occasion to volunteer for membership of our Committee.

There will then be a talk by Julie Miller about the Combined Military Services Museum allowing your thoughts to immediately transfer from our constitution to warfare.

Ken Hazell

## WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Irina Vahonina      Andrew Smoothy

Margaret Webdale      Ian Webdale

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for all your contributions, please keep them coming and don't forget to send your photographs.

Kris



The Silver Line is the only free confidential helpline providing information, friendship and advice to older people, open 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

0800 4 70 80 90      [www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)

## MONTHLY MEETING

Monday 20th November 2023

Wickham Bishops Hall Doors open at 1:30 for 1:45 start.

Tea & coffee are available prior to the start of the meeting.

Speaker: Patrick Forsyth

Unaccustomed as I am.....

Patrick has spoken widely on the pitfalls and (occasional) joys of public speaking. Standing up to speak in public can be difficult, challenging, maybe even frightening, yet with a few tricks of the trade it can be fun too, or should that be funny?

***Please remember your Membership Card***

## MONTHLY SPEAKER SCHEDULE 2023/24

<b>18th December</b>	<b>Christmas festivities</b>	Musical entertainment by the <b>MUGS</b> , Maldon Ukelele Group, plus lots more festivities and cake!
<b>15th January</b>	<b>Liz Huxley</b>	<b>Essex Coastal Marshes in Winter</b> Liz is a keen bird watcher and wildlife photographer. She has worked for the Essex Wildlife Trust for 15 years at Abberton Reservoir. She also leads guided walks.
<b>19th February</b>		<b>Easton Lodge</b> The talk covers the history of Easton Lodge, including the life of the Countess of Warwick , the WW2 airfield adjoining the gardens and the work of the Trust in restoring the gardens.
<b>18th March</b>	<b>Alan Pamphilon</b>	<b>Essex women that rocked the World</b> True stories of ten local ladies who influenced national history
<b>15th April</b>	<b>Tyler Butterworth</b>	The actor son of Peter Butterworth (Carry On films) and Janet Brown (best known for her Maggie Thatcher impersonation). A talk on the remarkable life of his parents.

If you know of any speakers that you can recommend please contact the Speaker Secretary Theresa Byles

## SOCIAL ORGANISING GROUP

PRESENTS AN EVENING OF COCKNEY FUN AND NOSTALGIA  
WITH



BE PREPARED FOR A SING-ALONG AND KNEES-UP

**TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER** 6.30 FOR 7.00 until 10.00

at MALDON TOWN HALL

A supper choice of – chicken, fish or veggie burger and chips, dessert and coffee/tea

Tickets £16 per member

Please bring your own plate, bowl, knife, fork, spoon and cup plus your own drinks and glasses

Rosemary Case

## FROM THE TREASURER

At the AGM on the 16th October I will be retiring as your Treasurer after three years in that role, and would like to thank all the coordinators and committee members past and present who have helped in various ways.

I am disappointed that a new Treasurer has not come forward, but I am sure that your committee will keep your money well looked after until a replacement is found.

Best wishes for the future  
Geoff Cory

## TENPIN BOWLING

A member of one of our Tenpin Bowling groups said that what they liked about our meets is that when people are not actually taking their turn everyone is friendly, chatting and smiling. The bowling, although it is good exercise, is not the main reason for coming. In fact, when the group was originally envisaged more than 20 years ago it was as a social group to meet for coffee with the bowling an added extra. A good morning is not necessarily a high score, but did you enjoy yourself?

We play every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 10.00 – 12 noon at Madison Heights, Park Drive, Maldon.

If you are interested, please contact me.

Alan Buck



# Climate Crisis

We are told that global warming is an emergency. Certainly, the vast majority of scientists now agree this is the case, the 1.5 degree increase in temperature is now inevitably going to be passed and with almost all predictions over the last 10/20 years proving to be underestimates the outlook is somewhat depressing.

Worse we seem to be approaching various tipping points when things like ocean currents might be affected and as such the uncertain timing and the extent to which matters might be made worse is largely unknown.

Many u3as have a "Climate Change" group, looking at what it is, what might be done to mitigate it and how individuals might help. And, yes, there is a great deal an individual can do both in practical and political terms. I spoke briefly about this at the September meeting inviting people to express interest in such a group, however only a tiny number of, albeit, enthusiastic, people attending signed up. With such a pressing issue this surprises me.

So, before giving up on this let's put the question out to all members via this newsletter: if you would be interested in such a group do please let me know and, if numbers allow, we can have a meeting to decide exactly what form such a group should take.

As Tesco say – every little helps – u3a members should surely be at the forefront of opinion and action on this. There seems no doubt now that it is an emergency.

Patrick Forsyth

## AVIATION GROUP

We were blessed with warm sunshine and a clear blue sky for our visit to Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Over 40 u3a members attended not only from our u3a (approx. 20) but also from our cluster group (approx. 10) and from the East of England Aviation initiative set up by Barbara Cordina and Don Mobley (approx. 12).

We all gathered in the old Airmen's Mess after ticketing and to hear that hall filled with gossip & laughter as it would have been in 1918, I admit, it made the hair on the back of the neck stir!

If only those ancient roof beams could talk!

The volunteer guides split us into small groups and gave an expert description of the history of Stow throughout war and peace, those who served and the current efforts to maintain and preserve this Essex gem.

One of the owner/pilots generously gave of his time and took a small group "airside" and gave a detailed talk about his 1946 built Auster that he keeps at, and flies from, Stow. Indicative of the image the volunteers are trying to maintain.





Our next meeting is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 11.00 at our **NEW** venue, **Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, Post Office Rd., Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6SY.**

This hall has several advantages over our past meeting place in Danbury, in

that it has ample dedicated parking, better emergency exits and is slightly larger.

### **Aviation Programme 2023**

<p>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</p>	<p>An illustrated <b>talk</b> by fellow member David Gillespie on his flight of a lifetime in the restored Canadian Lancaster.  At our <b>new</b> venue: <b>Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer, CM9 6SY</b></p>
<p>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p>Grand <b>film</b> event! TOM CRUISE in MAVERICK!! Pop corn and ice cream served in the interval!!  At our <b>new</b> venue, <b>Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, Post Office Rd., Woodham Mortimer, CM96SY.</b></p>
<p>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p>End of year social lunch/gathering at the Airmen's Mess Cafe, Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome.  No entry charge if only going to the Mess.</p>

Photos much appreciated from Alec Fraser and Andy Sheppard.

Chris Samson

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

First of all our thanks to all of you who joined us on 25th September for a walk down Maldon High St from Wantz Road to the Hythe, looking at interesting buildings along the way and finishing at St Mary's Church which dates back to Norman times. We saw many pubs along the way and a nice cup of tea at the Jolly Sailor finished off a very pleasant sunny afternoon.

Our next meeting is on Monday 23rd October when we meet at the Town Hall at 2p.m. for a talk by Patrick Chaplin.

The second edition of Ken Stubbings' book "Here's Good Luck to the Pint Pot" has been updated, expanded and carefully revisited by Patrick, who will be able to give us an in depth view of Maldon's pubs with emphasis on the last 35 years.

Our final meeting for this year is on Monday 27th November at 2p.m. at the Town Hall for our ***Mystery History Miscellany !!***

This is a new venture, and we would like members who are able and willing to bring along a small antique treasure, the history of which they are willing to share. There will also be a short talk and a light hearted quiz before we finish off the afternoon with light seasonal refreshments

See you on October 23rd

Kathy and Sylvia

## MARITIME GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on Monday 6th November at 10:00 at The Blackwater Sailing Club, Basin Road, Heybridge Basin, Maldon for a talk by John Pomfrett on the City of Lakes and Rivers: waterways in and around Berlin.

Following a brief introduction to the early, largely natural, river navigations that served Berlin from its founding in the 13th century, this talk traces the development of the canals and river navigations around Berlin, from the early canals of the 17th century, through the peak of expansion in the late 19th and early 20th



centuries, to the final completion of the Mittellandkanal in 2003, following the reunification of Germany.

Having set the scene, we then take a tour along the present day waterway system, starting with the complex network of waterways within the city, then

looking at the links to the Baltic, the Elbe and the Rhein and upstream to the unique waterways of the Spreewald.

We will see ports and palaces, locks, lakes and a lido, old and new boat lifts and many other points of interest in and around this fascinating city.



u3a members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Malcolm Case

## MARITIME GROUP Programme

**Mon 4th December**

Talk by Simon Stephens of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich on model boat building for the Museum. Followed by discussions on our 2024 programme and some Christmas cheer.

## ROYAL HISTORY GROUP



Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th November at 10.00 in the West Maldon Community Centre.

Following our completion of the Georgian era, which discussed the resignation of George Washington and the epic story of Napoleon vs Wellington, we will be moving on to discuss society and culture in the reign of Queen Victoria, both in the UK and worldwide..

Kathy Goff

## ASTRONOMY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on Monday 23rd October at 7:30 pm at Chigboro Fishing Club, Chigborough Road, Heybridge CM9 4RE. Weather permitting,

we will be night sky observing, so bring your astronomy telescopes, binoculars, monocular. Should it be overcast then we will continue with our "History of the Solar System".

Between 20th-21st October the Orionid meteor shower peaks, up to 20 meteors per hour.



24th October – Mars, Saturn, Venus –  
Evening sky

Most of the planetary action now is in the evening sky. Saturn is slowly losing its battle with the twilight and hangs less than ten degrees above the horizon one hour after sunset. Venus is even lower (about five degrees), but is sixty times brighter (magnitude  $-3.9$  versus  $0.6$ ). This means you can spot Venus much earlier when it's higher up. Last of the evening planets is Mars. Shining at magnitude  $0.3$ , the red planet is keeping slightly ahead of twilight's glow as it drifts eastward through Sagittarius. Mars will continue to linger in the evening sky well into next spring.

Meanwhile, the morning sky's sole planet is Jupiter. The magnitude  $-1.7$  object rises nearly two hours before the Sun but is still a few weeks away from being a good telescopic sight.

u3a members are very welcome to come to the meeting.

Malcolm Case

## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Twelve art appreciators (and a dog) met in Tony Groves' house in Danbury to watch the first three episodes of ***The Great Courses*** focussing on the history and paintings in London's National Gallery.

Founded in 1824, and situated in Trafalgar Square since 1838, it houses a collection of over 2,300 paintings dating from the mid 13th century to 1900. Created by gifts, bequests and purchases, the gallery has now blossomed into one of the world's leading treasure houses of art, along with the Metropolitan in New York, the Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, the Louvre in Paris, the Uffizi in Florence, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, the Kunsthistorisches in Vienna and the Prado in Madrid. From the outset, it was intended that the gallery be open to the public at large. The Scientific and Conservation departments ensure that pictures are shown in good condition and preserved for future generations.

The three films covered 13th to 15th century paintings of mainly religious scenes by painters such as Uccello, Giotto, Duccio, and others from Rome, Florence and Siena.



The afternoon session was completed by the obligatory tea and biscuits.

The next meeting of the Art Group will be on Wednesday 8th November at Andy's house in Hatfield Peverel.

In collaboration with the Arts Society, Blackwater, a joint coach trip is planned to the recently reopened National Portrait Gallery in London on Friday 27th October.

Andy

Judith Johnston

## GERMAN CONVERSATION

Our meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays at my house in Wickham Bishops. The next meeting is 2–4pm on 17th October.

Howard Broadbridge

## MAH-JONG

Mah-Jong has vacancies for new members. We are a small, very friendly group, that meet every other Friday in the Linton Room, West Maldon Community Centre, 2–4pm.

If you haven't played Mah -Jong before we are very happy to teach you.

Our next meeting is Friday 27th October.

For more information, please contact Mags Pell.

## Seafarers Centre, Tilbury

The centre is asking for donations of knitted articles, gloves, scarves, hats, jerseys in any colour and all sizes. They also need easy to read books (for most seafarers English is their second language), DVDs, jigsaws ( these are very much appreciated and used by the seafarers), sweets (with a long use by date), and toiletries suitable for males and females.

These donations will then be made up into parcels and given to seafarers in port over Christmas. Last year some 3000 parcels were distributed to seafarers on ships in the Port of London.



If you can donate any articles, then please contact Malcolm Case or give any donations to him at either a main monthly meeting or any Maritime Group meeting. The centre would appreciate receiving any donations by the end of November.

On behalf of the Centre, thank you for all your donations in the past and in the future.



## THE BIG BALTI

The next curry night will be held on Monday 27th November at the Balti Bhujon restaurant, Mill Road, Maldon. 6.30ish start.

To add your name to the list please contact:

Graham Evans

Bob Gowers

## JUST JAZZ GROUP

David and I are most grateful for the new jazz fans that came to our meeting in September, and hope that we will carry on for the remainder of the year.

Our next meeting is Monday 16th October, 7.30—9.30pm, in the Little Ship Club, Hythe Quay, Maldon. The bar will be open so pop in for a drink, some music and a chat. We look forward to seeing you.

Pete Condon David Coombes

## BIRD WATCHING GROUP

4th November	Two Tree Island, Leigh-on-Sea	Meet in car park
3rd December	Maldon promenade	Meet by Rossi's ice cream kiosk

All rendezvous times 10.00 unless otherwise stated.

For full locations details or car share requests please contact:

Peter Gaywood

Michael Bagshaw

## FILM GROUP

Following our break in August, the group met recently to discuss **Mr. Jones** and **Twelve Monkeys**.

The general view of **Mr. Jones** was a positive one with most agreeing the film was well made, with excellent acting from James Norton. The film certainly conveyed all the horror of the enforced famine in Ukraine between 1932–33 which killed millions, known as the Holodomor. The film may have benefitted from being a bit shorter and, due to the subject matter, could not be described as enjoyable. However, it is a film worth watching as it did cover a part of history not all of us had heard of before. Score: 7

**Twelve Monkeys** wasn't quite so well received by the majority of the group. It was described as confusing, complicated and, possibly, trying to be too clever and therefore becoming muddled. Despite this, the performance of Brad Pitt was well appreciated, as well as Bruce Willis in the lead role. There was quite some discussion about the outcome of the story, was there a virus, was there time travel, was it all in the mind of the lead character having a mental breakdown, or did the little boy make the whole story up? I thought it was brilliant which may be why the end score was 6.

The next selections again take us somewhere completely different.

**Gold Run** –Norway, April 1940. The incredible true story of how 55 tonnes of gold was smuggled out of Norway by a group of unlikely resistance fighters ahead of the invading Nazi forces. A Norwegian film with subtitles.

Available on BBC iPlayer for over a year.

***Moulin Rouge***, a 1952 British historical romantic drama directed by John Houston. The film follows artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec in 19th century Paris' bohemian subculture in and around the Moulin Rouge, a burlesque palace. The film stars Jose Ferrer, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee, among others.

Available on BBC iPlayer until 22nd October 2023.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 25th October 2023, via Zoom, at 7.30pm. If you would like to join please get in touch.

Shirley Macro,

## CROQUET GROUP

The Croquet group had its last session of the season on 4th October. We have had a very good season at Maldon Croquet Club's new venue at the Keith Bigden Memorial Ground, Hatfield



Peverel. We have managed to run ten sessions and only lost one to inclement weather. The new location has provided a much improved playing surface, which has added to everyone's enjoyment of the game. The tradition of after games refreshment and a chat has continued, much appreciated by all who attend. We would like to thank Maldon Croquet Club for allowing us to play on their new lawns and we are looking forward to the 2024 season beginning next April.

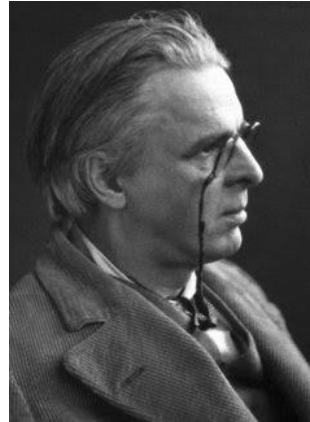
Geoff and Shirley Macro

## POETRY GROUP

The next meeting of the group is on Thursday 2nd November at 2:00 pm at a member's house. The poet for discussion is W.B. Yeats (1865–1939).

Born in Dublin, his father was a lawyer and a well-known portrait painter. Yeats was educated in London and in Dublin, but he spent his summers in the west of Ireland in the family's summer house at Connaught.

His first volume of verse appeared in 1887, but in his earlier period his dramatic production outweighed his poetry both in bulk and in import. His poetry, especially the volumes *The Wild Swans at Coole* (1919), *Michael Robartes and the Dancer* (1921), *The Tower* (1928), *The Winding Stair and Other Poems* (1933), and *Last Poems and Plays* (1940), made him one of the outstanding and most influential 20th century poets writing in English.



Jo Robson



# Macmillan Coffee Morning

A very big thank you to everyone who came along on 29th September to support my annual coffee morning get together.

32 people came through the garage, as usual, to partake of cakes and cuppas!!!

Thanks too to those unable to come but who donated helping to raise the marvellous sum of **£730**. The photos show some of the attendees!! The sun shone and we all enjoyed ourselves!! Here's to the next one in 2024!!

Mary Burd



## STROLLERS TOO

Our next walk on Tuesday 24th October will meet at 10:15 for a 10:30 start at the Riverside Car Park, Marsh Farm Road, South Woodham Ferrers CM3 5WP.

The walk is some 4.0 miles along the sea wall of the river Crouch, passing Brandy Hole, where it is said that smugglers temporarily ditched their brandy casks only to come back and recover them when the "coast was clear". The walk takes us towards and past Marsh Farm Country park.

Lunch can be taken at the Shaw Farm Pub, Wickford Road, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5QY. Please let me know by 19th October at the latest if you will be coming on the walk and if you will be staying for lunch.

Malcolm Case

## STROLLERS SUNDAY

Our next walk on Sunday 15th October will meet at the Prince of Wales pub, Stow Maries, CM3 6SA.

Please meet at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. Our walk will take us up the hill towards the aerodrome. At the top of the hill there is an impressive view of all the vineyards that have been planted in this flourishing wine growing area. After walking alongside the aerodrome we will come back down to the Prince of Wales for lunch.

Kym Marshall

## GARDEN GROUP

This year one of our memorable garden visits was to Blunts Hall in Witham .

We recently received an update from Alan Gamblin, the owner, on their success in raising funds for the various charities that the NGS support.



In total they had 19 group visits and managed to raise £4517.12 .

They are now starting to plan for 2024, and in the coming months we will be putting together a calendar of visits, which will definitely include a return visit to Blunts Hall. In addition, we are also planning a trip to the



Gibberd Gardens near Harlow and Easton Lodge, near Great Dunmow, which is the topic of our General Meeting in February. Other gardens that our under discussion for our visits are: Mayfield Farm, at Ardleigh, Horkseley Hall near Colchester and

Fudlers Hall in Mashbury.

Meantime, if you are a member of the RHS don't forget that they have plenty of special offers for visitors during October and November, including free entry to the Beth Chatto gardens.

Theresa Byles

## **RNLI 5p & 20p Collection Pots**

On behalf of the RNLI, can we thank you for your continued support with filling the collection pots. £171.88 has been collected so far this year and this brings our overall total to £574.44. Yes, we know this doesn't divide by 5p or 20p! Suffice to say any coins are acceptable!!

Please keep up the good work and hand them in at the Maritime or Main meetings.

Mary Burd     Malcolm Case

## **Tai Chi**

I am the group co-ordinator for Tai Chi classes which are held on Monday afternoons 2-4pm at West Maldon Community Centre. All Maldon group members are welcome.

For more detail contact:

Peter Harden



## HANDICRAFT GROUP

Did you see the article entitled 'Getting Crafty' in the latest edition of Third Age Matters? Were you inspired?

It really does what it says – crafting can help your wellbeing, gives you an opportunity to make new friends and use the skills that you thought you never had.

The Handicraft Group welcome you to come and join us, we would love to have some new members.

Our next meeting is on Monday 13th November.

Marian Manning

Handicrafts Coordinator

Marian Manning

Brenda Heal



# YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman Ken Hazell

Vice Chairman

Secretary Theresa Byles

Acting Ken Hazell

Treasurer

Membership  
Secretary Malcolm Case

Newsletter  
Editor Kris Taylor

Speaker  
Secretary Theresa Byles

Groups  
Co-ordinator Malcolm Case

Committee  
Alec Fraser  
Tony Groves  
Andrew Simmonds

Webmaster Tony Groves

Social Group Michael Childs

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**Deadline for next newsletter: 8th November 2023**

# CO-ORDINATORS

Art Appreciation	Judith Johnston Andy Simmonds	London Theatre Outings	Rosemary Case Sheila Childs
Aviation	Chris Samson	Meet & Eat	Joan Cummins
Astronomy	Malcolm Case	Mah-Jong	Mags Pell
Balti Night	Bob Gowers Graham Evans	Maritime	Malcolm Case
Bird Watching	Peter Gaywood Michael Bagshaw	Music Appreciation	tba
Bridge	Gill Cory	Padel Tennis	Ken Hazell
Canasta	Iris Slaney	Petanque (Boules)	Jack Veash Geoff Macro
Cribbage	Pat Clements	Photography	Tony Groves
Croquet	Geoff Macro Shirley Macro	Poetry	Jo Robson
Discussion	Pat Jones	Reading	Patrick Forsyth
Film Club	Shirley Macro	Rummikub	Janice Martin
French Conversation	Ann Lester	Scottish Country Dancing	Diana Rogers
Garden Visits	Theresa Byles Kris Taylor	Sing for Pleasure	Sue Garnham
Geology	Sylvia Cousins	Strollers Sunday & Tuesday	Malcolm Case
German	Howard Broadbridge	Tenpin Bowling	Alan Buck
Handicraft	Marian Manning Brenda Heal	Wine Circle No. 2	Graham Boswell
History—Victorians	Kathy Goff	Wine Circle No. 3	Mary Burd
Just Jazz	Peter Condon David Coombes	Wine Circle No. 4	Ann Goody
Local History	Sylvia Cousins Kathy Goff	Writing for Fun	Patrick Forsyth

Comment on ***“Third Age Matters”***  
via ***Patrick Forsyth***

## Schedule of Events – November 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
		1 Bridge Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis	2 Poetry Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub	3 Canasta	4 Bird Watching   Leigh on Sea	5
6 Maritime   The rivers and waterways around Berlin	7	8 Meet & Eat Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis Art Appreciation	9 Royal History- Victorians Scottish Dancing Ten Pin Bowling Petanque French Conversation	10 Mahjong Singing	11	12
13 Discussion Handicrafts	14 German Cockney Night	15 Ten Pin Bowling Bridge Geology Photography Padel Tennis	16 Petanque Ten Pin Bowling Rummikub	17 Canasta	18	19 Strollers
20 Monthly Meeting   Patrick Forsyth  Just Jazz	21	22 Ten Pin Bowling Wine Group Writing Padel Tennis	23 Petanque Ten Pin Bowling Music Appreciation Scottish Dancing Wine Group French Conversation	24 Cribbage Mahjong Reading Singing Aviation– Talk	25	26
27 Astronomy Local History Curry Night	28 Strollers Too  German	29 Film Ten Pin Bowling Padel Tennis	30 Petanque Ten Pin Bowling			

Schedule correct at time of publication – please confirm dates with co-ordinators